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Missionary Failed in Cuba, Accused as Agent of CIA

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Questioned On Aid to Guerrillas

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For Our Latin America Staff

An American missionary serving the rebel hotbed of Las Villas Province remained a prisoner of Communist Cuba Thursday after nine other Protestant missionaries were deported.

The Rev. Floyd Woodworth, director of the Assemblies of God Bible Institute in the town of Manacas, is accused of being an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Mrs. Woodworth and their two daughters left Miami Thursday for their Cleveland home after being deported from Cuba Wednesday with the other missionaries.

Woodworth's troubles began March 13 when Premier Fidel Castro denounced the missionaries as "counterrevolutionaries and agents of Yankee Imperialism."

Mrs. Woodworth would not talk to reporters, but she

missionaries explained that Cuba's 62 agents were questioned her husband concerning alleged aid given to anti-Castro guerrillas in the hills of Las Villas.

The government-controlled press in Havana accused Woodworth of failure to teach Cuban history to the 50 students in his Bible institute. Coworkers pointed out that the curriculum includes only religious courses.

Another charge was that the Cuban flag was not flying at the school, of which he had been director for 11 years. The missionaries explained that this was true only because the rope on the flag pole had rotted and "it is almost impossible to obtain new rope in Cuba today."

The Cuban newspaper made a big issue over the fact that the Manacas Bible Institute receives financial aid from churches in the U.S.

Most of the missionaries viewed the crackdown on the three religious groups denounced by Castro as the beginning of the end for Protestant churches in Cuba.

The three groups are the Pentecostals (Assemblies of God), the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Gideons (not the same as the American group by that name, but a small, militant one which combines some of the characteristics of the Adventists, Pentecostals and Sal-

Another Assemblies of God minister, the Rev. Ramon Nieves, was arrested in his church in the town of Pinar del Rio where he had served as pastor for 23 years. He spoke the words most of the missionaries were thinking when they were deported to Miami Wednesday.

"This is a great blow to the work of God in Cuba," he said as he pointed to the Bible, the only personal belonging his wife could bring with her, "and you can see how much they want us here now."